

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Environmental Manual

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June 20, 2012

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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Office of the Director

June 11, 2012

It gives me great pleasure to announce the completion of the revised District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Environmental Manual. By revising and updating this manual, DDOT has proven its commitment to continuously improve its environmental processes and procedures. This manual will greatly facilitate DDOT in meeting our mission to “develop and maintain a cohesive sustainable transportation system that delivers safe, affordable, and convenient ways to move people and goods—while protecting and enhancing the natural, environmental and cultural resources of the District.”

In our first decade as an independent agency, we have made tremendous strides toward improving the way we deliver everything from major infrastructure projects to routine services. It is my vision that we streamline our internal procedures and deliver services faster; we must be progressive and cutting edge; we must set high expectations for our employees and measure our performance to ensure we are meeting our goals. We have marked our presence as a progressive State DOT and as an active member of American Association of State and Highway Officials (AASHTO). We have proven our ability to follow and comply with Federal and Local Environmental laws and regulations.

Improving environmental quality and establishing sustainable practices at DDOT are key goals for me as the Director of the agency. Our mission statement clearly states our commitment to protect and enhance natural, environmental and cultural resources of the District. The processes and procedures described in this manual will help DDOT meet these commitments and goals. In the past, this manual has greatly helped DDOT in ensuring compliance with Federal and DC environmental laws and regulations, and I am sure it will continue to be so.

I am confident that the use of this manual will continue to help us achieve our commitments to environment and sustainability as we continue to develop a sustainable transportation system for the District.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry Bellamy".

Terry Bellamy
Director

FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to complete the revision and update of the DDOT Environmental Manual. In this revision, we have decided to change the name of the manual to “DDOT Environmental Manual” from the “DDOT Environmental Policy and Process Manual.” When the DDOT Environmental Policy and Process Manual was originally completed, DDOT committed to regular updates of this document. The revision and update of this manual is a fulfillment of DDOT’s commitment.

We have updated the manual to comprehensively address environmental processes and procedures as they relate to DDOT projects, especially regarding the implementation of the federal aid highway program. The processes outlined in the manual, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), DC Environmental Policy Act (DCEPA), and Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS), will continue to facilitate the project development process to ensure that all DDOT projects are not only environmentally sustainable but also protect the environment. This manual provides information on the DDOT Project Development Process, NEPA, DCEPA, and other local and federal environmental laws and regulations. Specific regulations and processes are described in individual chapters in the manual. The appendices provided at the end of the document have also been updated with various reference documents, including local and federal regulations and environmental documents. The updates included in this version of the manual include an updated Chapter 1: DDOT Environmental Policy; updated Chapter 2: FAQs (previously called Environmental Basics); updated Chapter 3: Project Development Process (previously called Project Planning and Coordination with Transportation Planning, Design, & Construction); updated Chapter 5: Determining Environmental Action Types; updated Chapter 10: Categorical Exclusions; updated Chapter 14: Air Quality; updated Chapter 15: Highway Noise Policy; updated Chapter 17: Water Quality; updated Chapter 19: Wetlands and Waters of the U.S; updated Chapter 24: Environmental Justice; and revised appendices that include revised DDOT Environmental forms, Environmental Document Review Checklist, CEQ 40 FAQ, and DDOT Noise Policy.

In the end, I would like to recognize the numerous individuals from FHWA, DDOT, and its consultant team who worked very hard to complete this document.

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20 June 2012

